

Crop Summary

2006 Crop Summary: Utah producers entered the 2006 crop year with seasonably warm temperatures. Snow pack in the mountains was only 50-70% of normal. Fewer than normal snow storms moved through during the months of January and February, but producers were looking forward to more snowfall. There were some concerns of winter kill in the spring, when plants break dormancy, due to cold temperatures and lack of adequate snow cover in the valley. In March there were plenty of storms with conditions too wet for farmers to get into fields for planting. Days suitable for field work in the month of March averaged 1.5 days per week. By mid-April days suitable reached 7 days per week. Farmers were able to get into their fields and begin farming activities such as fertilizing, and corn, alfalfa, and vegetable planting.

In May 2006, crops were only in fair condition with the temperatures being somewhat cooler than normal for this time of year. Mormon Crickets were spotted in the northern part of Utah. APHIS reports indicated that the cricket count was a record with over 500 crickets per square yard. Alfalfa Weevil and grasshoppers continued to be a problem in some areas of the state.

The early part of June brought some concern from local farmers because a late frost caused a slow down in crop progress. Some corn producers had to replant their crop because the corn was stunted. Farmers had to cut their hay early to maintain their crop's quality. There were also reports of the Cereal Leaf Beetle in some parts of the state which caused some farmers a significant loss in barley.

The summer months brought warmer temperatures and dryer weather. Irrigation was a major part of this year's crop production layout. Irrigated grain yielded above average while dry land grain suffered during much of the growing season.

The early fall brought mild temperatures with plenty of moisture. Continuing rain throughout the central and southern parts of the state downgraded the quality of alfalfa hay. Rain received in some parts of Utah filled the soil with moisture 9 inches deep. Heavy storms in some areas delayed the grain, onion and safflower harvests. Light rain showers in other areas delayed crop progress just a little. Late fall brought dryer conditions which allowed farmers to complete their harvest

Pasture and rangelands benefited greatly from the summer and fall rain showers. Reports of greener pastures and adequate water supplies were prevalent through the state. Livestock water ponds on the desert ranges were full which made for good water situations for fall and winter grazing. Loco weed was reported on some spring and winter ranges that caused abortions in some of the range herds. Late fall brought unusual temperatures swings with warmer than usual temperatures during the day and cooler temperatures at night. Some beef and dairy cattle herds reported pneumonia due to the temperature swings.

The 2006 crop year started off slow with various infestations sprouting up in some areas. However, the continued optimism by Utah farmers, and sufficient rain and water supplies aided farmers and livestock ranchers to have a successful and productive year.

Crop Production Index (1977=100):Crops, by Commodity Grouping Utah, 1999-2006

Year	Small Grain	Hay	Fruit ¹	Other Crops	Total Crops
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1999	129	149	48	108	131
2000	101	136	127	105	125
2001	86	138	60	96	117
2002	65	124	20	87	101
2003	72	135	85	89	114
2004	79	134	78	87	113
2005	78	143	95	88	120
2006	72	138	73	98	116

¹ Fruit production index is derived from total production.